

growing wild in the southern parts of the United States, and is derived from the Chickasaw Indians. In character the fruit is small to medium in size, nearly round, yellow or red, with thorny bushy branches, and narrow leaves, somewhat resembling peach leaves.

In quality all these plums are far inferior to the European varieties, but where these latter do not succeed well, owing to black knot, curculio, etc., these Chickasaw varieties are worthy of trial.

*The Marianna Plum*, first noticed in this Journal in vol. vii. p. 33, is a native of South-eastern Texas, and has now been pretty well distributed. It is found to be about two weeks earlier than the Wild Goose, ripening with the early peaches, and a better producer than that variety. It is claimed to be quite hardy, and a very ornamental tree especially when in bloom, on account of its pure white blossom which is so abundant as to completely hide the foliage.

#### CULTIVATION OF APPLE ORCHARDS.

**N**O absolute rule can be laid down with reference to cultivation of the apple orchard, because the circumstances so frequently differ. That a well established orchard, in good rich soil, that is growing thriftily, should be left undisturbed by the plough and whiffletrees, is a position that will need little argument to sustain. So long as the necessary thrift can be kept up with an annual top-dressing of some suitable fertilizer, it would be a positive injury to tear up the roots with the plough.

Neither does it require any argument to prove that all young orchards should receive the best of cultivation for the

first ten or fifteen years after planting. The wretched, stunted specimens of trees that have been planted and left uncared for, prove this conclusively.

But what about the many orchards that are full grown, but show no thrift, bear little or no fruit, and whose light or yellowish leaves betray their enfeebled condition. Do they need pruning, manure, cultivation, or all three combined?

Our experience is that cultivation is in such cases the most efficient means of restoration, and will accomplish what pruning and manure will utterly fail in doing without it. Cultivation of the soil so exposes it to the action of the air as to make available the plant food which is already there in store, and besides, has a most important influence in counteracting the serious drouths to which our country is of late so very subject.

One of our orchards which had been planted some twenty-five years, was in the condition above described. It had been left seeded down for about ten years, and had become unthrifty and unfruitful. In the summer of 1886 we broke up thoroughly one-half of it, applied wood ashes and pruned it carefully; while the other half was pruned and manured, but not cultivated. The same treatment was continued during 1887, and now the result is plain enough to the most casual observer. The cultivated portion has resisted the drouth completely. Its dark green foliage is a remarkable contrast to the light sickly green of the other part, and, more important still, the cultivated trees are laden to the very ground with such a load of fine Baldwins, Greenings, and Golden Russets, as cannot be equalled by any other orchard on our fruit farm.

This seems to be clear testimony to the immense advantage of cultivation, especially in seasons of such extended drouth as those of 1886 and 1887.